

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/536,458  
Response to OA dated May 1, 2008

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-15, 18 and 19 have been allowed. Of the rejected claims, only Claims 5 and 10 are independent.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention.

Independent Claim 5, as amended, is to a covered wire having an electrical conductive core and a unicolor cover portion of synthetic resin for covering the core including a plurality of marks that are formed by coloring a part of an outer surface of the cover portion with a color, the marks being disposed with a gap therebetween along lengthwise of the covered wire, wherein the marks are made by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of the color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire from a plurality of nozzles, all of which nozzles are oriented in the same direction toward a same side of the wire in a lengthwise direction of the wire. Independent Claim 10, as amended, is to a method of distinguishing covered wires comprising a step of forming a plurality of marks that are formed by coloring a part of an outer surface of a unicolor covered wire with a color, the marks being disposed with a gap therebetween along lengthwise of the covered wire, whereby the color is selected respectively for the covered wires as capable to distinguish each covered wire, wherein each mark is made by spouting a predetermined amount of a liquid coloring material of the color against the outer surface of the cover portion of the covered wire from a plurality of nozzles, all of which nozzles are oriented in the same direction toward a same side of the wire in a lengthwise direction of the wire.

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In the Office Action, Claims 5, 10, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Fitzgerald et al. (U.S. 2,989,943); Claims 6, 7 and 11 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of a combination of Fitzgerald and JP '918; and Claims 16 and 20 were rejected as obvious in view of a combination of Fitzgerald and Johnstone. Reconsideration and removal of these rejections is respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendments and the following remarks.

In a reply to the arguments filed in response to the previous Office Action, where an amendment was made that the plurality of nozzles are oriented in the same direction toward the wire "in a lengthwise direction of the wire", the Office Action alleges that the argument is not persuasive because Fitzgerald discloses "the nozzles being arranged in a lengthwise direction of the wire".

There still appear to be distinct and unobvious differences between the methods of independent Claims 5 and 10 of the present application and the cited art. While the Office Action notes that some of the nozzles of Fitzgerald are spaced longitudinally (21 and 23) (20 and 22), the feature of the present method where all the nozzles are oriented in the same direction along the wire in a lengthwise direction is ignored. That is, all of the nozzles are on the same side of the wire.

Claims 5 and 10 have been amended to emphasize this feature.

The secondary references do not add any teachings to cure the defects of Fitzgerald.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 5-7, 10, 11, 16, 17, 20 and 21, in addition to allowed Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 12-15, 18 and 19, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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